

December 7, 2018

The Honorable Amit V. Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20544

We are writing to you to express our concern about the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the document named as Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, MB Docket 05-311.

We are a small village in Dane County named Deerfield, Wisconsin. Our population is about 2,300. We rely on franchise fees in order to make local programming a reality to our community. The following list of statements support why these fees in our community as well as thousands of others across our country are crucial for public information.

1. The Village of Deerfield, Wisconsin created a Cable Commission to act as its agent and become the local franchising authority operating under Wisconsin's state franchise law for the interests of its community.
2. Cable franchise fees, called video provider fees in the Wisconsin statutes, are paid by cable companies and other video providers to Wisconsin municipalities for access to local public information.
3. Video provider fees are set by Wisconsin statutes and cannot be increased or decreased from the rate a municipality received in 2008.
4. Wisconsin municipalities are forbidden by Wisconsin statutes from collecting a PEG fee to fund PEG related equipment and facilities, making them completely reliant on the franchise fee to fund public, education, and government access television.
5. Cable operators have long serviced the public interest by providing one or more PEG access channels on their systems to local franchising authorities for the use of the community based on their needs and interests.
6. To set a financial value on PEG access channels, whether cost-based or market-based, that municipalities would be forced to pay without franchise fees, could mean the shutdown of the Deerfield media center.
7. Local public, education, and government access channels serve important community needs in Deerfield including fostering transparency in government, informing and involving citizens in the electoral process, providing information on municipal services, serving local non-profit organizations, the business community, the local schools, local artisans, and places of worship.

8. PEG access channels enable the public to use cable television to communicate to diverse groups and the community at large about matters of concern to them.

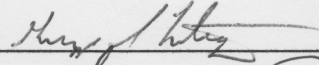
9. PEG access channels provide audiences with information from a variety of sources because they are open to local government, local schools, and members of the community.

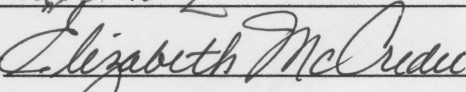
10. PEG access channels are the only channels on the entire cable lineup with exclusively local programming.

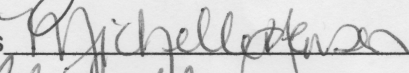
11. Mass media under the authority of the FCC has always been guided by the principles of democracy including access to a diversity of information sources. We must not let these principles to be put aside.

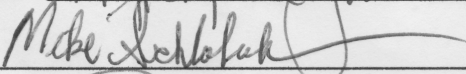
12. Therefore, the Village of Deerfield (and Cable Commission) urge the FCC not to change the way federal law has been interpreted and to continue to require cable companies and other video providers to provide channel space and transmission of local access channels at no charge to municipalities and keep franchise fees at the current level.

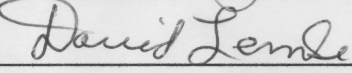
Thank you for your consideration.

Village of Deerfield President 

Village of Deerfield Administrator 

Superintendent of Deerfield Schools 

Township of Deerfield Chairman  12-10-18

Deerfield Cable Commission Chairman  12/12/18